

1 Jonathan O. Peña, Esq.  
2 CA Bar ID No.: 278044  
3 Peña & Bromberg, PLC  
4 2440 Tulare St., Ste. 320  
5 Fresno, CA 93721  
6 Telephone: 559-439-9700  
7 Facsimile: 559-439-9723  
8 Email: info@jonathanpena.com  
9 Attorney for Plaintiff, John Edward Roberts

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
FRESNO DIVISION**

John Edward Roberts,

Plaintiff,

v.

Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting  
Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:21-cv-00462-SKO

**STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD  
AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY  
FEES AND EXPENSES PURSUANT  
TO THE EQUAL ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE ACT; ORDER**

(Doc. 20)

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND 29/100 (\$6,848.29) under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to

*Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are subject to any offset.

Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of fees, expenses and costs to be made directly to Counsel, pursuant to the assignment executed by Plaintiff. Any payments made shall be delivered to Plaintiff's counsel, Jonathan O. Peña.

This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney fees, and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or Counsel including Counsel's firm may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

This award is without prejudice to the rights of Counsel and/or Counsel's firm to seek Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of the EAJA.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 24, 2022

/s/ *Jonathan O. Peña*

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JONATHAN O. PEÑA  
Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: May 24, 2022

PHILLIP A. TALBERT  
United States Attorney  
PETER K. THOMPSON  
Acting Regional Chief Counsel, Region IX

1 Social Security Administration  
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3 By: \* Sarah E. Preston  
4 Sarah E. Preston  
5 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney  
6 Attorneys for Defendant  
7 (\*Permission to use electronic signature  
8 obtained via email on May 24, 2022).  
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10 **ORDER**  
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12 Based upon the parties' foregoing "STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND  
13 PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE EQUAL  
14 ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT" (Doc. 20) (the "Stipulation"),  
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16 **IT IS ORDERED** that fees and expenses in the amount of SIX THOUSAND  
17 EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND 29/100 (\$6,848.29) as authorized  
18 by the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), be awarded subject to  
19 the terms of the Stipulation.  
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21 IT IS SO ORDERED.  
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23 Dated: May 25, 2022

24 /s/ Sheila K. Oberto  
25 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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